

**WORD BUILDING AND SPELLING CARD GAME**

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

**1. Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to the general art of  
5 amusement devices and games, and to the particular field of  
word forming games.

**2. Discussion of the Related Art**

Both children and adults are often interested in  
expanding their knowledge. For this reason, the art contains  
10 many examples of teaching devices. One way of teaching is  
through the use of games. The art thus contains many  
examples of educational games. For example, there are memory  
games, math games, reading games, and the like.

Vocabulary and spelling are often very important skills  
15 required for education. A large vocabulary will permit a  
person to understand written and spoken instructions and  
information. A skilled speller is often able to communicate  
their ideas and thoughts more effectively than someone who  
struggles with spelling. Accordingly, it is very desirable  
20 to teach spelling, word use, and word building to anyone who  
desires to assimilate and communicate information. As

mentioned above, teaching of skills is often carried out using games, especially for children.

Therefore, there is a need for an educational game that teaches words and word building, as well as spelling.

5 Since many children enjoy playing card games and are introduced to card games at an early age, the use of a card game to teach a skill, especially an educational skill, is desirable for both the teacher and the learner.

Therefore, there is a need for an educational card game  
10 that teaches words and word building as well as spelling.

As mentioned above, it is desirable to improve spelling and word building skills for all ages, not just children.

Many adults can profit by improving these skills, especially if the adult is learning a new language. Some families have  
15 adults and children all wishing to improve these skills.

Accordingly, it would be desirable to have a teaching tool that can be used by both adults and children to teach spelling and word building skills.

Therefore, there is a need for an educational card game  
20 that teaches words and word building as well as spelling that can be played by players of all ages and skill levels.

Some people may acquire these skills quicker than others. Therefore, in order to keep all people equally interested in learning these skills, it would be desirable

to be able to handicap those with superior skills so all will have an equal chance of winning, and thus being positively reinforced.

Therefore, there is a need for an educational card game  
5 that teaches words and word building as well as spelling and which can be easily modified to account for different player skill levels.

#### PRINCIPAL OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

It is a main object of the present invention to provide  
10 an educational game that teaches words and word building as well as spelling.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an educational card game that teaches words and word building as well as spelling that can be played by players  
15 of all ages and skill levels.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an educational card game that teaches words and word building as well as spelling and which can be easily modified to account for different player skill levels.

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#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

These, and other, objects are achieved by a method of playing an educational card game which comprises providing a

plurality of letter cards, a plurality of wild cards, with each letter card and each wild card having a numerical value; providing a plurality of number cards; providing a plurality of category cards, each category card having a category thereon; shuffling the letter cards; shuffling the number cards and placing the shuffled number cards in a stack of number cards; shuffling the category cards and placing the shuffled category cards in a stack of category cards; selecting a number card from the stack of number cards and identifying the number on the selected card as the number of cards to be initially dealt to each player; dealing letter cards from the shuffled deck of letter cards to each player until each player has a number of cards held in his or her hand that equals the number on the selected number card; replacing the remaining letter cards in a stack that is accessible to all players; selecting a category card from the stack of category cards and turning that card face up so all players can view the selected category card; setting a goal by using the selected category card and the selected number card, the goal being to form a word related to the category on the selected category card using the number of letter cards that corresponds to the number on the selected number card; having each player in turn pick a card from either the stack of remaining letter cards or from a

card that has been discarded by the player immediately preceding the player and then discard a letter card from his or her hand; proceeding until one player forms a winning word that is related to the selected category using a number of letter cards that corresponds to the number on the selected number card; designating the one player as the winning player; and using the numbers on the letter cards, awarding points to the winning player by adding the number of points in the letters used to form the winning word.

The game embodying the present invention will teach the players word forming skills, spelling and vocabulary. The game can be modified to fit all skill levels, even if those playing a game have different skill levels. Thus, the game will be educational and fun for all.

#### 15 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a numbered letter card used in the game embodying the present invention.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a wild card used in the game embodying the present invention.

20 Figure 3 is a perspective view of a stack of number cards used in the game embodying the present invention.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of a stack of category card used in the game embodying the present invention.

Figure 5 is a sectional view taken along line 5-5 of Figure 2.

Figure 6 is a table showing the value of the cards used in the game embodying the present invention.

5 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become apparent from a consideration of the following detailed description and the accompanying drawings.

Referring to the Figures, it can be understood that the  
10 present invention is embodied in an educational game that is played using a plurality of letter cards, such as letter card 10. The letter cards include: fifteen cards having vowels, such as vowel 11, thereon, forty-two cards having consonants thereon and three wild cards, such as wild card 12. A number value, such as number value 14 on card 12, is placed on each of the plurality of letter cards, the number values on each card are shown in Figure 6.

The game further includes a plurality of number cards, such as number card 16, each number card having a number  
20 from four to eleven thereon, and a plurality of category cards, such as category card 18. Each category card has a category named thereon. The form of the game shown includes category cards which include the following categories: food,

drinks, wild category, vehicle makers, vehicle models, states, towns, cities, boys' names, girls' names, countries, films/movies, television programs, birds, animals, trees, insects, colors, fruit, vegetables, flowers. Other  
5 categories will occur to those skilled in the art based on the teaching of this disclosure, and such other categories are intended to be covered by the scope of this disclosure as well.

The cards are plastic as indicated in Figure 5 and can  
10 be any size with any font size printed thereon as suitable for the age group being targeted. In the form of the game shown, the cards are 3½ inches by 2¾ inches in size.

The game embodying the present invention is played in accordance with the following method steps: providing the  
15 above-disclosed cards; shuffling the letter cards; shuffling the number cards and placing the shuffled number cards in a stack of number cards, such as stack 20 shown in Figure 3; shuffling the category cards and placing the shuffled category cards in a stack of category cards, such as stack 22 shown in Figure 4; selecting a number card from the stack of number cards and identifying the number on the selected card as the number of cards to be initially dealt to each player; dealing letter cards from the shuffled deck of letter cards to each player until each player has a number

of cards in his or her hand that equals the number on the selected number card; replacing the remaining letter cards in a stack that is accessible to all players; selecting a category card from the stack of category cards and turning  
5 that card face up so all players can view the selected category card; setting a goal by using the selected category card and the selected number card, the goal being to form a word related to the category on the selected category card using the number of letter cards that corresponds to the  
10 number on the selected number card; having each player in turn pick a card from either the stack of remaining letter cards or from a card that has been discarded by the player immediately preceding the player and then discard a letter card from his or her hand; proceeding until one player forms  
15 a winning word that is related to the selected category using a number of letter cards that corresponds to the number on the selected number card; designating the one player as the winning player; and using the numbers on the letter cards, awarding points to the winning player by  
20 adding the number values of the letters used to form the winning word. As will be understood by those skilled in the art, a wild card can be substituted for any letter card. Also, if the wild category is selected, the person turning over the card can select the category from the other

categories or invent a category of his or her own.

An alternative form of the game is to permit a player to use less than the designated number of cards to form a word. This may permit the game to be modified according to  
5 skill level of the players. Still further, a player can be permitted to use fewer than the designated number of cards, if that player is willing to lose some of the points awarded for winning. For example, if a player uses five cards to form a word, but the number card selected at the initiation  
10 of the game requires six cards to be used, the winning player will have one card remaining in his or her hand. The points on that remaining card will be subtracted from the points that would be otherwise awarded. For example, if the goal is to come up with a seven letter word in the category  
15 of animals, but the winning player only plays the word "tiger," and has the letters "W" and "D" remaining in his or her hand, the score ultimately awarded to this player will be 29 points figured as follows (see Fig. 6):  $[(8 \text{ (T)} + 12 \text{ (I)} + 7 \text{ (G)} + 12 \text{ (E)} + 3 \text{ (R)}) = 42]$ , minus  $[(8 \text{ (W)} + 5 \text{ (D)}) = 13]$ , with  $42 - 13 = 29$ . Only the points of the letters  
20 that have been used to create the winning word can be counted in scoring the game.

The game can be modified to fit various skill levels, by requiring older or more skilled players to subtract

points as described above while allowing younger or less skilled players to form words of fewer than the set number of letters without penalty. If desired, additional bonus points can be awarded for forming a word using the exact 5 number of cards required (for example coming up with the word "robin" in the category of birds, with the number card stating that the number of letters must be five, a bonus of a certain number of points can be awarded). Certain categories could have additional multipliers associated therewith as well. Such variations will provide additional 10 modifications for the game. Those skilled in the art will understand additional variations based on the teaching of this disclosure.

If desired, the dealer can be issued an extra card 15 during the initial dealing so the dealer will begin the game with a discard. Following players can either pick a card from the stack of letter cards or pick up the card discarded by the immediately preceding player.

If desired, a target number can be selected and each 20 time a player wins, the points awarded to that player are accumulated with any other points that player has and the accumulated points counted towards the target number. The first player to reach the target wins. Furthermore, some players who do not win may have the points on the cards held

in his or her hands, when the winning player plays his or  
her cards, added and subtracted from his or her running  
total if the game is played to a target number. This will  
permit the game to be modified according to skill level  
5 with, for example, younger or less skilled players being  
given lower target numbers than older or more skilled  
players.

It is understood that while certain forms of the  
present invention have been illustrated and described  
10 herein, it is not to be limited to the specific forms or  
arrangements of parts described and shown.